



MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION
COMMITTEE
44th Session
Agenda item 9

MEPC 44/9/2
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WORK OF OTHER BODIES

Outcome of A 21

Note by the Secretariat

SUMMARY

<i>Executive summary:</i>	This note provides information on the outcome of the twenty-first session of the Assembly which is relevant to the work of the Committee.
<i>Action to be taken:</i>	Paragraph 14
<i>Related documents:</i>	A 21/5(b)/2

General and MEPC related Assembly resolutions

1 The Assembly held its twenty-first session from 15 to 26 November 1999. The Assembly approved the reports of the Committee on its forty-first, forty-second and forty-third sessions and adopted a number of Assembly resolutions. A list of Assembly resolutions related to the activities of the Committee is set out in the annex.

2 The Committee may wish to take note of the Assembly resolution on Objectives of the Organization in the 2000s adopted as resolution A.900(21).

Diplomatic Conferences

3 The Assembly approved the holding of the following diplomatic conferences in the next biennium, 2000-2001:

Conference on International Co-operation on Preparedness to Pollution Incidents by Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS-OPRC Conference) to be held in conjunction with MEPC 44 in March 2000; and

a Diplomatic Conference on Harmful Anti-fouling Systems (TBT Conference) in 2001.

4 In considering the resolution on Anti-fouling systems used on ships (resolution A.895(21)), the Technical Committee of the Assembly considered a joint submission from ICS, BIMCO, INTERCARGO, INTERTANKO, OCIMF and SIGTTO (A 21/11/2) which expressed concern about the inclusion of dates for prohibition of TBT-based paints in the draft resolution on anti-fouling

systems, since they should be further considered in the process of preparation of the text of the legal instrument in MEPC. Several delegations shared the above concern but the overwhelming majority of the Technical Committee supported the original text of operative paragraph 2, as prepared by MEPC 42, and the Technical Committee agreed to retain the original text. Based on the recommendation of the Technical Committee, the Assembly adopted the resolution without modifications to operative paragraph 2.

Development of new GESAMP Hazard Profiles

5 The Technical Committee noted that MEPC 42 felt that there was a need to complete GESAMP Hazard Profiles for all products in the IBC Code as soon as possible in spite of budgetary constraints and requested the GESAMP EHS Working Group to give priority to this issue.

6 The Technical Committee noted that the MEPC, after having considered a number of options for securing the necessary funding for the GESAMP hazard profile review, reluctantly accepted that the current target date for the hazard profile review may have to be set back due to insufficient funding. However, the MEPC agreed to request GESAMP to continue its work within the restrictions of the resources available and invited interested parties to consider providing voluntary financial contributions to meet the funding requirement, if the original time frame were to be met.

7 The Technical Committee noted that, while the HNS-OPRC Protocol is to be adopted in a diplomatic conference in 2000, it is also very important to make progress in the related review of Annex II to MARPOL 73/78 which regulates pollution prevention associated with operational practices. The Technical Committee also noted that the revision of Annex II to MARPOL 73/78 would be further delayed due to the proposed reduction in resources being allocated to *the Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection* (GESAMP) for the re-evaluation of those products subject to the IBC Code.

8 Whilst recognizing that Zero Nominal Growth is the desired objective, the Technical Committee agreed that this should not prevent the completion of such an important task.

9 The above view was transmitted to the Administrative, Financial and Legal Committee. As a result of consideration of this issue, the United Kingdom delegation had offered to provide the necessary sum of £22,800 to offset the proposed reduction in the budget allocated to the GESAMP EHS Working Group specifically for the work to complete the GESAMP hazard profile review required to facilitate the revision of MARPOL Annex II.

Clearing-house mechanism for oil and litter

10 The Technical Committee recalled that, at the twentieth session of the Assembly, it was decided that, due to lack of financial resources, IMO was not in a position to take on the task to develop a clearing-house mechanism for oil and litter, as called for in the UN General Assembly resolution 51/189 on institutional arrangements for implementation of the Global Programme for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA).

11 In this connection, the Technical Committee noted with appreciation a statement by the delegation of Canada that Environment Canada is working with the IMO Secretariat to identify the associated development and maintenance costs as follows:

- .1 Environment Canada will prepare a pilot scale GPA clearing-house for oil and litter which is compatible with GPA and the IMO electronic information system. The pilot project could be completed by the end of January 2000;

- .2 the IMO Secretariat will provide access to its information on this matter and will assess the information presented in the pilot project for technical accuracy; and
- .3 both Parties will evaluate the results of the pilot project by March 2000 and will then consider possible further co-operation on the clearing-house mechanism.

Long-term work plan of the Organization

12 The Assembly adopted the resolution on Long-Term Work Plan of the Organization (up to 2006) as resolution A.879(21).

13 In considering the above resolution, the Technical Committee endorsed a proposal by Liberia that it would be beneficial to Members if the document on the long-term work plan of the Organization could also include information on the subjects for which work had been completed, or which is still under way, in order to ascertain the Organization's performance against any previously approved plan and a synopsis on proposals for new items included in the long-term work plan. The Technical Committee invited the Committees concerned to include such information in the relevant document for future sessions of the Assembly.

Action requested of the Committee

14 The Committee is invited to take note of the above information.

ANNEX**LIST OF ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS RELATED TO
MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION**

A.879(21)	Long-term Work Plan of the Organization (up to 2006)
A.880(21)	Implementation of the International Safety Management Code (ISM) Code by 1 July 2002
A.881(21)	Self-assessment of Flag State Performance
A.882(21)	Amendments to the Procedures for Port State Control (resolution A.787(19))
A.883(21)	Global and Uniform Implementation of the Harmonized System of Survey and Certification (HSSC)
A.884(21)	Amendments to the Code for the Investigation of Marine Casualties and Incidents (Resolution A.849(20))
A.885(21)	Procedures for the Identification of Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas and the Adoption of Association Protective Measures and Amendments to the Guidelines Contained in Resolution A.720(17)
A.886(21)	Procedure for the Adoptin of, and Amendments to, Performance Standards and Technical Specifications
A.895(21)	Anti-fouling Systems Used on Ships
A.896(21)	Provision and Use of Port Waste Reception Facilities
A.897(21)	Amendments to the Revised Specifications for the Design, Operation and Control of Crude Oil Wshing Systems (Resolution A.446(XI) as Amended by Resolution A.497(XII))
A.900(21)	Objectives of the Organization in the 2000s
